

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Michaluk	)	Examiner:	Lois L. Zheng
	)		
Application Number: 10/042,549	)	Group Art Unit:	1742
	)		
Filed: January 9, 2002	)	Confirmation No.:	5470
	)		
Docket No.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)	)		

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 5, 2007

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 3, 2007, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response. A petition for a three-month extension of time and the requisite fee are submitted herewith, thus making the response due on or before November 5, 2007 (since November 3, 2007 and November 4, 2007 were a Saturday and Sunday, respectively).

**Amendments to the Claims** begin at page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin at page 15 of this paper.